

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT  
FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE  
“DRAFT”**

**Minutes of a Special Meeting Held on May 11, 2009**

On May 11, 2009, a special meeting of the RTM Finance & Budget Committee was held in room 206 in the Town Hall with thirteen of fifteen members present.

**Present were:**

Harry Artinian  
Barry Baldwin  
Jack Davis  
Terry Duffy  
Ted Hawkins  
Andrew Millar  
Bruce Orr  
John Price  
Anita Rycenga  
Bill Smith  
Marc Thorne  
Reilly Tierney  
Virgil Wenger

**Absent were:** Charles Brode and Michael Rudnick

The Chairman, Bruce Orr, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Kate Buch was our guest. The first topic of discussion was the 09-9 resolution appropriating and authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds. Kate said the desire is to have standing authorization because if it were necessary to seek approval from BOS/RTM, etc. they might miss the market. Timing to take advantage of favorable rates is critical. Over 1 million dollars was saved when bonds were refinanced earlier this year. This authorization should be renewed on an annual basis.

Harry Artinian moved that the resolution being accepted seconded by Virgil Wenger and unanimously approved.

The second topic for discussion was the 09-10 resolution authorizing an appropriation for OPEB, Other Post Employment Benefits, for the Town's non-police and Board of Education liabilities. This includes all benefits outside of pension, such as medical and dental benefits. This is being recommended in connection with GASB 45 a new accounting standard which requires that the liability be recognized. The non-police plan has not been funded in the past. To have this unfunded liability on our financial statements would have a negative impact on our credit rating. If this funding is approved by the RTM the next request will be that the Town ordinances be amended so that Trust accounts can be created which would be beneficial in that earning potential is improved and greater flexibility is achieved under GASB 45 in terms of actuarial assumptions. The contribution amount for FY 2009 is \$540,580 (appx. breakdown \$150,000 current year, \$350,000 to amortize past, \$38,000 interest had the money been contributed July 1) and the request includes funding 2010 with the assumption it will be a similar amount. The source of the initial appropriation will be the General Fund and beyond that it will be part of the annual budget. The perceived total liability of the unfunded obligation is appx. \$5.3 million. It could take 10+ years to be fully funded. Having a contribution plan in place per Kate will be viewed favorably for rating purposes.

Harry Artinian moved that the resolution being accepted seconded by Marc Thorne and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dated: May 12, 2009  
Respectfully submitted,  
Anita M. Rycenga, Clerk  
RTM Finance & Budget Committee

